

CHALLENGE SCHOOL



This Week's News

April 9, 2021

Message From the Principal



THE PACK IS BACK! This week we celebrated the return to fully in-person learning for all secondary students across Cherry Creek! Our students did an amazing job relearning what it's like to attend full classes. As has been the case all year, our elementary students just keep doing school and doing a great job of it!

Remember that this week is a short week for students, as we host virtual parent-teacher conferences on Wednesday evening (April 14) and during the school day on Thursday (April 15). Students and staff are also off on Friday, April 16. Remember that students should plan to attend virtual conferences with parents whenever possible.

This week we celebrated our fantastic paraeducators. They do great work day in and day out with their clerical support for teachers and student supervision for lunches and recess. We couldn't do it without them! These positions wouldn't be possible without the support of the PTCO and their tireless fundraising. Your support of the read-a-thon, Wolf Drive, and other fundraising throughout the year make these positions possible! As always, thanks for your continued support.

I think we were all dreading the reality of our traffic situation once we returned to in-person learning for all students. Through your patience and the help of some fantastic volunteers to help keep things moving along, we really made the best of it. We have new families taking advantage of carpooling and use of the carpool only lot. Thanks for your continued patience and support.

Thanks to Ms. Draper for hosting our spring book fair in the library. It always brings a smile to my face to see the excitement our students have for reading and diving into a new book.

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School Supplies

Our return to school is another exciting step toward school as we have known it for so long. Remember that we're not out of the woods yet. Unfortunately some of our neighboring schools and districts are experiencing a pretty substantial increase in COVID cases after the return from spring break. We're going to all work together with hopes of staying in school through the end of the year. We're doing everything we can to maintain distancing, continue to wash hands, and wear masks at all times. We ask that you continue to be vigilant in your activities outside of school. Let's work together to keep heading the right direction!

Stay safe - Stay well!

Principal Strohfus

Upcoming School Events

April 14 and 15
Virtual Parent/Teacher Conferences

April 15 and 16
NO SCHOOL

April 20
Composite Class Pictures

Upcoming District Events

STREAM-A-PALOOZA
April 10
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Important Links:

NEW:

[Challenge Middle School Trimester 3 Silver-Teal Calendar](#)

[Planning Forward 2020-2021](#)

[Challenge School Website](#)

[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

[CCSD Parent Resources](#)

[Schoology Troubleshooting Guide for Students](#)

2021-22 Student/Teacher Placements



Planning for the 2021-22 school year is just around the corner! This planning includes the classroom assignments for next year. We use a systematic approach to creating classrooms for each team. Each year the staff at Challenge spends many hours and great care assigning students to a class for the following school year.

For more information about placements and to submit a placement survey, click [here](#).

Denver Teen Science Cafe



Interested in learning more about careers in the science field? The Teen Science Cafe hosts meetings for middle and high school students to learn from professionals. The April meeting is with Northrop Grumman where they will be speaking about the James Webb Space Telescope and digital transformation. Please see this [flyer](#) for more information.

Virtual Conference Sign Ups



Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held virtually on the evening of Wednesday, April 14th and all day on Thursday, April 15th. Students do not have school on Thursday, April 15th or Friday, April 16th.

Please click [here](#) for information on how to sign up for the Spring 2021 Parent/Teacher Conferences.

Wolf Drive 2021 Update



Thank you to everyone who participated in our 2021 Wolf Drive – we truly appreciate your generosity! 137 of our families participated and we are thrilled that they helped us raise \$36,540 which is 73% of our goal! Donations are still coming in, so we may reach our goal before the school year ends. If you would still like to contribute, please click [here](#) to donate.

Raffle Drawings were held on Monday, April 5. [Click here to see a list of winners along with instructions for claiming your prize.](#) (Winners are listed alphabetically by the name that was used to make the purchase.) *After checking the link, if you have any questions, please email PTCOChallenge@gmail.com.*

The PTCO Board would like to extend a special thank you to Jessica Sauther, Amy Henry, Denise Pinheiro, and Noor Jahan Noorie who provided invaluable assistance with this year's Wolf Drive!

Virtual Spring Book Fair



The Challenge Spring Book Fair begins on Monday, April 5 and will be open during school hours for **students only** until Wednesday, April 14. Students can attend and make purchases at the Book Fair in person and or parents can place orders online from their child's wish list beginning April 5th. Books orders using the wish list order forms will be filled by library staff and delivered to students' classrooms. Families can also shop the [online](#) Book Fair from March 31-April 13. Books purchased online will be delivered by mail to families' homes. Purchases can be made using eWallet, credit cards, cash or checks made out to Challenge School. Every purchase in person or online directly benefits the Challenge School Library! For a list of FAQ's regarding the book fair, please click [here](#).

Thank you for your support!

Inside Out



Inside Out offers a learning environment that fosters critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and effective communication skills:

1. Critical Thinking and Problem Solving teaches students to question claims and seek truth.
2. Creativity and Innovation teaches students to think in a way that is unique to them and expands on ideas.
3. Collaboration teaches students that groups can create something bigger and better than you can on your own.
4. Communication teaches students how to effectively convey ideas.

Combined, the four Cs empower students to become one-person think tanks. Then, when those students get together, they can achieve almost anything!

Inside out is available to all students in grades 1st through 8th grade (the grade they will be in for Fall 2021).

Summer Dates:

June 7-11

June 14-18

June 21-25

Location: Sky Vista Middle School

Registration will go live March 25th @ 12:00am

<https://cherrycreek.revtrak.net/other-programs/rw-inside-out/>

Volunteer Recognition for March

Heartfelt 
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Thank you to the following families who have recorded 20 or more volunteer hours in HelpCounter as of the end of March. Your dedication to our school is much appreciated. Volunteer opportunities can be found each week in the sidebar under Important Links.

Ellman, Appiah, Fedorowicz, Gupta, Henry, Hultquist, Van de sande, Kim, Jackson, Torres-Mary, Taylor, Preston, Spaulding, Amador, Dykstra, Tuley, Kurup, Safiulla, Witten, Meech, Li, Martinez

8th Grade Continuation



Parents/guardians of 8th Graders - the Continuation Committee has been hard at work planning this year's Continuation ceremony. Emails have been sent to all parents/guardians with details. If you have not received any emails from us, please contact ChallengeContinuation2021@gmail.com as soon as possible.

Enrichment Opportunity for Rising 9th Graders



SummerTEK 2021 is an exciting e-learning opportunity for high school students and incoming high school freshmen to explore rewarding careers and acquire valuable technology skills in a supportive and user-friendly environment. This summer we are offering the following four Cisco Networking Academy courses:

- *Introduction to Networks*
- *Introduction to the Internet of Things (IoT)*
- *Introduction to Cybersecurity*
- *Entrepreneurship.*

These courses can be the first step toward industry recognized certifications and can open the door to internships and future career and entrepreneurial opportunities in areas of high job growth.

Please visit our website <https://www.cftek.org>

Composite Class Pictures



On Tuesday, April 20, Challenge School will be having composite class pictures along with Spring individual pictures. Look for order forms next week.

Food and Nutrition Services News



Even though breakfast and lunch are free for all students this year, did you know that there are additional benefits if you qualify for free and reduced lunch? Please click [here](#) for more information.

Breakfast and lunch distribution is changing with the return to full time in person learning. Please click here for information in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

PTCO Board Nominations



The PTCO is accepting nominations for Board positions for the 2021-22 school year. Self-nominations are encouraged. The Board meets monthly to plan and organize community building events and fundraisers to support our staff, students and families. Open positions include President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Communications and Volunteer Coordinator. All positions can be filled by two people, so find a friend to do it with you or make a new friend! Contact ptcochallenge@gmail.com for more information or to make a nomination. The nominations are due by April 10th 11.59pm MT

Challenge Family Facebook Page



Did you know our PTCO has a Facebook group for the parents and caregivers of our students? It's a great place to ask questions and learn from other parents. Please go to www.facebook.com/groups/challengeparents/ to join.

American Furniture Warehouse No Cost Fundraiser



Challenge School has partnered with American Furniture Warehouse (AFW) to help raise funds for our school. They will donate between 2% and 4% of your purchase price to Challenge School. Just mention CHLNG5 when you checkout! Anyone can take part in this at any AFW store in the country. It also works for online orders and they deliver anywhere in the U.S., so let your friends & family know! You can purchase any time to help support Challenge, but from April 16 to April 25 they will be having a special 10 Day Rally where participants will have a chance to win \$500. Click [here](#) for more details!

Parent's Council Board



Parents Council is the umbrella organization that keeps our non-profit status so schools can fundraise, host fun school events and give back to the community and school. We have many board positions opened and would love to chat with anyone who is looking to volunteer in this capacity! You can visit our website at <https://www.ccparentscouncil.org> to learn more about the board and open positions.

Wolf Watch



CCSD will be offering Summer Camp Day Care this summer. We are excited to provide care for all our families through the summer months. Please see this [Flyer](#) for information. More details to come as we near the end of the school year.

School Supplies 2021-2022



School supply lists for the 2021-2022 school year are available [here](#). Challenge will also be offering prepackaged school supplies through Edukit. Please click here to [order](#).

Feedback

We hope that you are getting all of the information that you need from this update. If you have ideas on how we could better keep you informed, please email dbustamante@cherrycreekschools.org.